XVI. *A Letter from the Right Revd Father in God* Robert *Lord Biſhop of* Corke, *to the Right Honble* John *Earl of* Egmont, F.R.S. *concerning an* Extraordinary Skeleton, *and of a* Man *who* gave Suck *to a Child.*

My Lord, *Corke, Aug.* 8. 1738.

AS I am juſt come from ſeeing a moſt extraordinary natural Curioſity, I cannot forbear letting your Lordſhip partake with me in the Amuſement.

It is the Skeleton of a Man, whoſe Bones, during his Life-time, were almoſt all grown into one intire Bone, [ſee TAB. V. Fig. 1. 2.] ſo that now his Fleſh is taken from them, he is, without further Trouble, one intire Skeleton. The only Bones he could move before his Death, were the Wriſt of his Right Hand, and the Bones of his Knees, ſo that he could move his Legs a little; and, when ſet upright, could in about a Quarter of an Hour get a Foot forward.

For many Years before his Death, he could not alter his Poſture in the leaſt. His Name was *William Clarke.* He was maintained till his Death by one Mr. *Aldworth* in this County. He was valued by his Maſter on account of his Honeſty. The only Uſe he was capable of being put to, was that of watching the Workmen; for, when he was once fixed in his Station, it was impoſſible for him to deſert it.

At about 18 Years of Age he began to be unwieldy, and ſo continued growing more ſtiff, till he loſt all Uſe of his Limbs, and died in the 61ſt Year of

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of his Age. The Poſture into which he fixed at laſt, is ſomewhat like that of the *Venus* of *Medicis*, only that his Right Hand is the loweſt, and the Left Hand does not riſe higher than the Elbow of the Right. He was originally deformed, his Left Shoulder riſing higher than his Right; the *Vertebræ* of his Back are exceedingly bent inwards towards the lower Part, with an Inclination towards the Left Hip. The *Os Sacrum* is ſo bent outwards, that you have no Sight of it at all as you view the Skeleton in Front. His Left Knee does not come down ſo low as the Right by Three or Four Inches. There is hardly one Bone in his Body in the Figure it ought naturally to be, except the Bones of his Legs, which are not much diſtorted.

He is one intire Bone from the Top of his Head to his Knees. I ſhall endeavour to give your Lordſhip ſome Account of it, becauſe I think it one of the moſt extraordinary things I ever ſaw, though it will be very difficult for me to do it, it being ſo many Years ſince I have ſeen any thing of Anatomy, and of Conſequence have forgotten the Names of the Bones belonging to the various Parts of the human Body.

His Head ſeems regular, and the Sutures pretty diſtinct, though more united than in common Skulls. His Jaw-bones ſeem intirely fixed and grown together, as are alſo the Teeth in the hind Part of the Jaw. His fore Teeth are very irregular, which left a Vacancy for him to ſuck in his Food at. Out of the Back of his Head there grows a Bone, which ſhoots down towards his Back, and paſſes by the *Vertebræ* of the Neck at about an Inch Diſtance:

This Bone unites to the *Vertebræ* of the Back, and the *Scapula* of the Left Shoulder, from whence it diſengages itſelf again, and continues diſtinct, till it divides into Two towards the Small of the Back, and fixes itſelf into both the Hip-bones behind. The *Vertebræ* of the Neck and Back are one continued Bone.

In the fleſhy Part of his Thighs and Buttocks Nature ſeems to have ſported herſelf, in ſending out various Ramifications of Bones from his *Coxendix* and Thigh-bones, not unlike the Shoots of white Coral, but infinitely more irregular; ſome behind, and ſome before; ſome in Clumps and Cluſters, and others in irregular Shoots of Eight or Nine Inches in Length. You cannot paſs your Hand between his Two Knees, which incline much towards the Right, his Left Shoulder having been the higheſt. One of the Bones of his Left Arm was once broken by a Fall, and Nature has ſhot out another Bone a little above the bending of the Arm, which unites to the broken Bone, and makes it much ſtronger than it was before, though the Bone ſeems more liable to decay about the Place where it was formerly broken. All the Cartilages of his Breaſt, Four only excepted, were turned to Bone. Theſe Four ſerved to move his Breaſt in Reſpiration.

Out of his Heels there frequently grew Bones like the Spurs of a Cock, Two or Three Inches long, which he ſhed as a Deer does his Horns. When he was diſſected, there was a Bone found in the fleſhy Part of his Arm, quite diſtinct and diſengaged from any other Bone; it is very thin, about Four Inches long, and the Fourth-part of an Inch broad, with

ſe-

ſeveral Ramifications. What is very odd, is, that while theſe Bones were growing, he never complained of any Pain in his Muſcles.

This Skeleton belongs to Dr. *Barry*, an ingenious Phyſician in this Town, whom I intend to perſuade to publiſh a Treatiſe about it, and to get Three or Four Copper Plates taken from the different Views of it.

And now that I am engaged in writing, I will venture to give an Account of a Man that I met at *Iniſhanan*, about 10 Miles from this Place. He was an old Man about 70 Years of Age, by Birth a *Frenchman*, but was a Refugee on account of his Religion, was bred a Gardener, and, by all Accounts, had been induſtrious, till deprived of his Strength by Age.

He asked me for Charity, and I gave him half a Crown. I mention this Particular, that the remaining Part of the Story may not ſeem to be told for the ſake of Gain. After I had done this, and was gone into the Houſe, I heard a Noiſe at the Door: The Man, out of Gratitude, had returned to ſhew me a Curioſity, which was that of his Breaſts, with which he affirmed he had once ſuckled a Child of his own: His Wife, he ſaid, died when the Child was about Two Months old: The Child crying exceedingly while it was in Bed with him, he gave it his Breaſt to ſuck, only with an Expectation to keep it quiet; but, behold, he found that the Child in time extracted Milk; and he affirmed, that he had Milk enough afterwards to rear the Child. I looked at his Breaſts, which were then very large for a Man; but the Nipple was as large or larger than any Woman's I

ever ſaw. Some Ladies were then paſſing by; ſo I ſent him off in Haſte, and have not ſeen him ſince.

I have either heard or read of one Inſtance of this kind before.

I ſhall make no Apology for giving you the Trouble of this long Letter, but that of aſſuring you that I am with great Sincerity

Your Lordſhip's
moſt obedient,
humble Servant,

ROBERT CORKE.

XVII. *Extracts of Two Letters from the Revd Dean* Copping, F. R. S. *to the* Preſident, *concerning the* Cæſarian *Operation performed by an ignorant Butcher; and concerning the extraordinary* Skeleton *mentioned in the foregoing Article.*

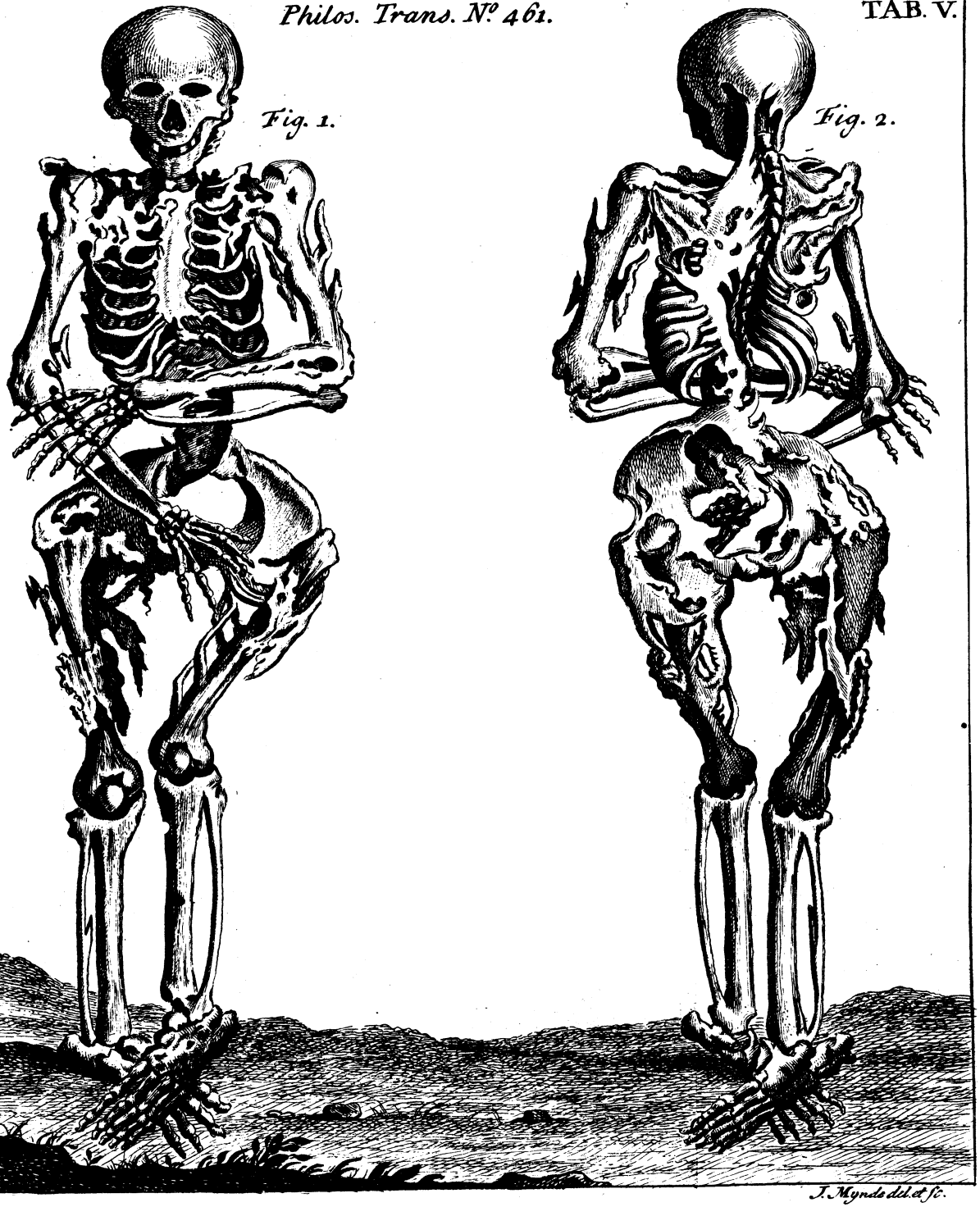
SIR, *Dublin, March* 16. 1737-8.

I Have tranſcribed a Caſe, which I received from a young Clergyman, who ſome time ſtudied Phyſic, and knows the Woman: I ſhall probably ſee her at *Clogher*, where ſhe now lives. The Caſe happened within theſe Two Years, but I cannot learn the exact Date at preſent.

Sarah Mc Kinna, who now lives at *Brentram*, Two Miles from the City of *Clogher*, in the County of

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



J. Mynde del. et sc.